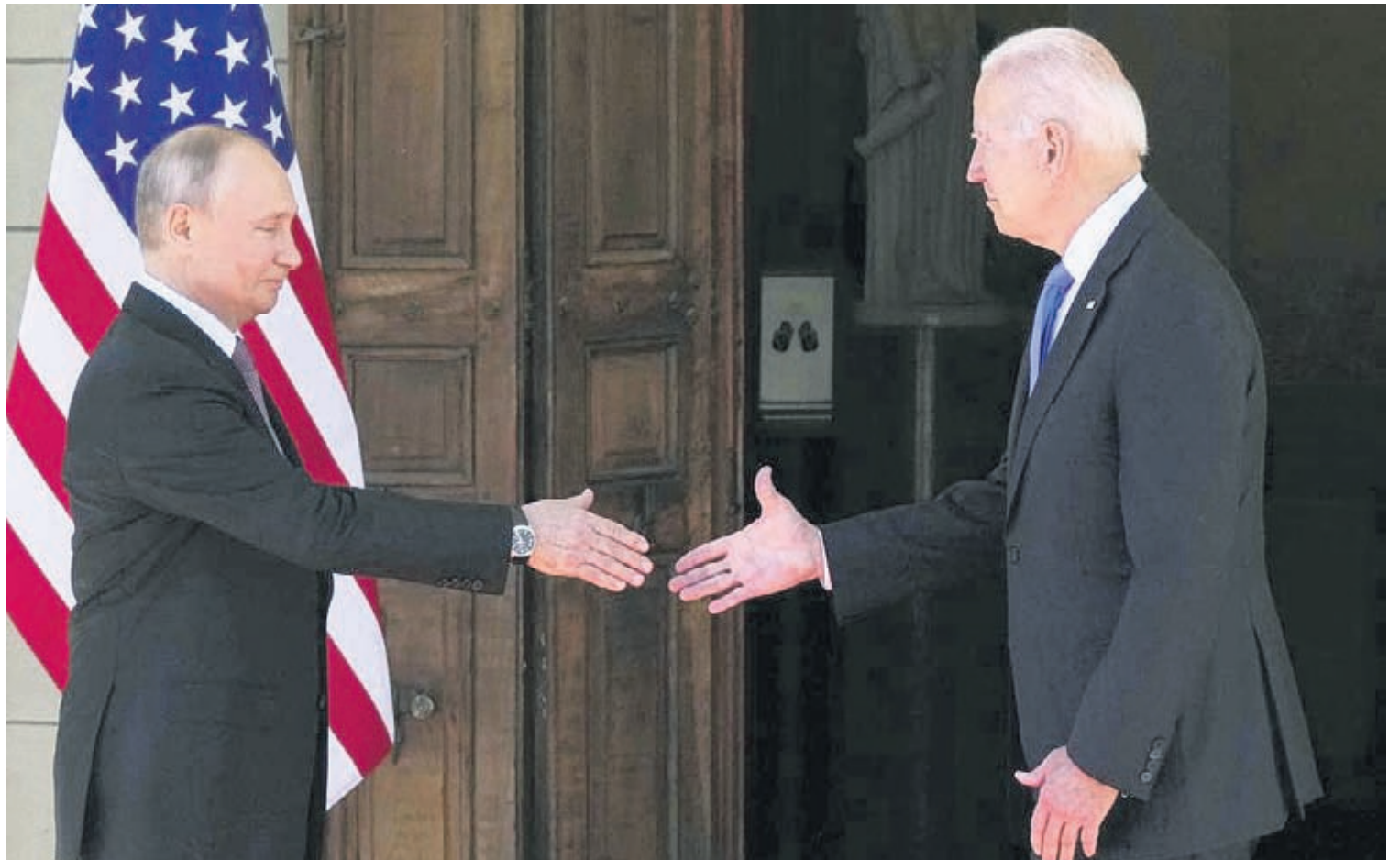


Biden-Putin square off for 2 hours as Ukraine tensions mount

By AAMER MADHANI and DASHA LITVINOVA

WASHINGTON (AP) – Face to face for over two hours, President Joe Biden and Russia's Vladimir Putin squared off in a secure video call Tuesday as the U.S. president put Moscow on notice that an invasion of Ukraine would bring enormous harm to the Russian economy. The highly anticipated call between the two leaders came amid growing worries by the U.S. and Western allies about Russia's threat to its neighbor.

Putin came into the meeting seeking guarantees from Biden that the NATO military alliance will never expand to include Ukraine, which has long sought membership. The Americans and their NATO allies said in advance that Putin's request was a non-starter.



President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, arrive to meet at the 'Villa la Grange', in Geneva, Switzerland, June 16, 2021.

Associated Press

Continued on next page

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Continued from Front

There appeared to be no immediate breakthroughs to ease tensions on the Ukraine question, as the U.S. emphasized a need for diplomacy and deescalation, and issued stern threats to Russia on the consequences of an invasion.

Biden, said U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, "told President Putin directly that if Russia further invades Ukraine, the United States and our European allies would respond with strong economic measures."

He added that Biden said the U.S. would also "provide additional defensive material to the Ukrainians above and beyond that, which we are already providing, and we would fortify our NATO allies on the eastern flank with additional capabilities in response to such an escalation."

Sullivan said that could include additional deployments of U.S. troops to eastern European NATO allies. "As we pursue diplomatic channels, we will also prepare for all contingencies," he added.

Meanwhile a top U.S. envoy, Victoria Nuland, said a Russian invasion of Ukraine would jeopardize a controversial pipeline between Russia and Germany. She told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday that if Russia invaded, "our expectation is that the pipeline will be suspended."

As the U.S. and Russian presidents conferred, Ukrainian officials grew only more anxious about the tens of thousands of Russia troops that have been deployed near their border. Just hours before the start of the Biden-Putin video call, Ukrainian officials charged Russia had further escalated the smoldering crisis by sending tanks and



Russian President Vladimir Putin takes part in a ceremony to open ten new stations of the Big Circle Line of the Moscow subway via videoconference at the Bocharov Ruchei residence in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021.

Associated Press

snipers to war-torn eastern Ukraine to "provoke return fire" and lay a pretext for a potential invasion.

U.S. intelligence officials have not been able to independently verify that accusation, according to an administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter. But the official said that the White House has directly raised concerns with the Russians about "resorting to their old playbook" by trying to provoke the Ukrainians.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment on the allegations, redirecting questions to Russia's Defense Ministry, which made no immediate comment.

In a brief snippet from the start of the meeting broadcast by Russia state television, the two leaders offered friendly greetings to each other. "I welcome you, Mr. President," Putin said, speaking with a Russian flag behind him and a video monitor showing Biden in front of him.

"Good to see you again!"

Biden replied with a chuckle. He then noted Putin's absence from the recent Group of 20 summit in Rome. The Russian took part in the major gathering of industrial nations by video link because of concerns about COVID-19 at home. "Unfortunately, last time we didn't get to see one another at G-20," Biden said. "I hope next time we meet to do it in person."

More sternly, he made clear during the call that the U.S. stands ready to take actions that would exact "a very real cost" on the Russian economy, according to White House officials. The Kremlin in its readout described the call as "candid and businesslike."

"Putin emphasized that it's wrong to put the responsibility on Russia, since it is NATO that has been making dangerous attempts to expand its presence on the Ukrainian territory and has been expanding its military potential near Russian borders," the Kremlin said.

The Kremlin said that the Russian leader also proposed to lift all mutual re-

strictions on diplomatic missions and help normalize other aspects of bilateral relations.

Sullivan said Biden did not make any commitments on the matter, and said the leaders would direct their staffs to continue negotiations.

Putin, for his part, demanded guarantees from Biden that the NATO military alliance will never expand to include Ukraine, which has long sought membership. That's a non-starter for the Americans and their NATO allies.

The leader-to-leader conversation — Biden speaking from the White House Situation Room, Putin from his residence in Sochi — was one of the toughest of Biden's presidency and came at a perilous time. U.S. intelligence officials have determined that Russia has massed 70,000 troops near the Ukraine border and has made preparations for a possible invasion early next year.

Sullivan, speaking after the call, said the U.S. believes that Putin has not yet made

a final decision to invade. Biden was vice president in 2014 when Russian troops marched into the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea and annexed the territory from Ukraine. Aides say the Crimea episode — one of the darker moments for President Barack Obama on the international stage — looms large as Biden looks at the smoldering current crisis.

As for NATO, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were formally invited in 1997 and joined in 1999. They were followed in 2004 by Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the former Soviet states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Since then, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and North Macedonia have joined, bringing NATO's total to 30 nations.

In Washington, Republicans are framing this moment as a key test of Biden's leadership on the global stage. Biden vowed as a candidate to reassert American leadership after President Donald Trump's emphasis on an "America first" foreign policy. But Republicans say he's been ineffective in slowing Iran's march toward becoming a nuclear power and that the Biden administration has done too little to counter autocratic leaders like China's Xi Jinping, Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Putin.

"Fellow authoritarians in Beijing and Tehran will be watching how the free world responds," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said from the Senate floor on Monday. "And President Biden has an opportunity to set the tone when he speaks with Putin." Sullivan said Biden and Putin had a "good discussion on the Iran issue" and called it an area where the two countries could cooperate. □

If Roe falls, some fear ripple effect on civil rights cases

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

If the Supreme Court decides to overturn or gut the decision that legalized abortion, some fear that it could undermine other precedent-setting cases, including civil rights and LGBTQ protections.

Overturning *Roe v. Wade* would have a bigger effect than most cases because it was reaffirmed by a second decision, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, three decades later, legal scholars and advocates said. The Supreme Court's conservative majority signaled in arguments last week they would allow states to ban abortion much earlier in pregnancy and may even overturn the nationwide right that has existed for nearly 50 years. A decision is expected next summer.

"If a case like *Roe*, which has this double precedent value, is overturned simply because there's a change in the composition of the court, there's really no way that we can have confidence in any of those precedents going forward," said Samuel Spital, director of litigation at the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund.

Anti-abortion advocates and legal scholars, meanwhile, argue that the *Roe* decision was unique, both in its legal reasoning and effects, and so overturning it wouldn't affect other landmark cases.

"In *Roe*, I think you have really just a particularly bad decision," said Erin Hawley, senior appellate counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative legal group. She did not expect a Supreme Court decision against *Roe* to affect landmark cases that legalized same-sex marriage and LGBTQ intimacy.

Other experts disagree. Alison Gash, a professor at the University of Oregon, said *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which made same-sex marriage legal, and *Lawrence v. Texas*, which overturned laws which criminalized same-sex intimate relationships, rest on the same legal precedent.

"Literally the logic that allows for a woman to argue that she has a right to choose to have an abortion is the same logic that is used to argue that gay couples have the right to choose and marry the partner of their choice," she said.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh mentioned those two landmark cases for the LGBTQ community during the Supreme Court arguments last week, along with *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ended race-based school separation and *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which said indigent defendants must have representation.

All of those, Kavanaugh said, were cases where the high court overturned precedent. If they had not "the country would be a much different place."

Those cases, though, are distinctly different, said Melissa Murray, a law professor at New York University. By overturning those precedents, the court expanded civil rights for more Americans. Overturning *Roe*, by contrast, would take rights from women.

"We have never had significant overturning of precedent for the purpose of withdrawing rights. It's always worked the other way, to expand rights. Not to withdraw them," she said.

The reference to *Brown v. Board of Education*, meanwhile, was "offensive and disturbing," Spital said. While justices often pose hypotheticals, comparing *Roe* to an 1896 court decision that "facilitated the legal dehumanization of Black people" crossed a line, he said.

For anti-abortion advocates, though, the *Roe* decision allows for "the purposeful termination of a human life," as Mississippi Solicitor General Scott Stewart put it during arguments. "Nowhere else does this court recognize the right to end a human life," he said. A decision in favor of Mississippi wouldn't call into question any of those other civil rights cases, he argued.



This artist sketch depicts Mississippi Solicitor General Scott Stewart, standing while speaking to the Supreme Court, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, in Washington. Center for Reproductive Rights Litigation Director Julie Rikelman is seated right. Justices seated from left are Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Associate Justice Elena Kagan, Associate Justice Samuel Alito, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch and Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

Associated Press

The *Obergefell* case that gave LGBTQ people the le-

gal right to marriage would also be safe because thousands of same-sex couples have relied on it to wed, and reliance like that makes courts less likely to make a major change, said Teresa Collett, a University of St. Thomas School of Law and director of its ProLife Center. "In short, I think overruling *Roe* and *Casey* will have zero impact on *Lawrence* and *Obergefell* as binding legal precedent," she wrote in an email.

At least some conservative attorneys have a different point of view. The lawyer who conceived Texas' strict new abortion ban also suggested that same-sex intimacy and marriage are "court-invented rights" in a brief filed in support of the Mississippi law. □



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Navy halts use of fuel storage complex above Hawaii aquifer

By **AUDREY McAVOY**

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (AP) —

The U.S. Navy announced Monday that it is suspending use of a massive World War II-era fuel storage complex above a Hawaii aquifer that supplies nearly 20% of Honolulu's drinking water — following days of complaints that tap water smells like fuel and has sickened some people.

Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro traveled to Pearl Harbor and told reporters he was apologizing to everyone affected by what he called a "horrible, horrible tragedy."

Nearly 1,000 military households have complained about their tap water and some have said they have suffered physical ailments such as cramps and vomiting recently after drinking it. A water sample returned last week showed the presence of petroleum in water that comes from a well near the underground fuel tank complex that has been the source of multiple fuel leaks over the years.

Del Toro said officials were getting close to determining the cause of the problem and that when the investigation is completed and reviewed, the Navy



Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro speaks at a news conference at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Monday, Dec. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

will adopt water safety precautions.

"This will allow us to implement new safety actions before resuming operations," Del Toro said.

Separately, the state Department of Health ordered the Navy to suspend operations at the fuel facility, citing the governor's power to act if there is "imminent peril to human health and safety or the environment" caused by a leak or operation of an underground

storage tank system. The department said the Navy could appeal the order.

When asked if the Navy is considering permanently shutting down the fuel tank farm, Del Toro said all possibilities are being explored. "We're looking at some very serious options here in the very near future," he said. Fuel from the tanks is used to power many U.S. military ships and planes that patrol the Pacific Ocean, but Del Toro said the cutoff's

impact on military operations would "have a very minimal effect, if any, at all right now."

"I don't want to get into topics with conversations with regards to how long we can continue to do this for national security reasons, but there's really no minimum operation to our fleet's activities or activities impacting the Air Force or the Army or the Marine Corps for any near term at all," Del Toro said.

The announcement came after Hawaii's governor and congressional delegation called on the Navy to suspend operations at the fuel storage complex that sits above an aquifer that supplies water to urban Honolulu.

Rear Admiral Blake Converse, deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, told reporters that the use of the tank farm was suspended on Nov. 27.

"I know there are concerns that we have not been transparent with the results of our testing and our procedures," Del Toro said. "You have my commitment and promise that the information that we provide is the most accurate information that we have available."

The Navy last week said a water sample from one of its wells showed the presence of petroleum. The well is near the underground fuel tank complex that has been the source of multiple fuel leaks over the years.

The Navy's water system serves about 93,000 people. Nearly 1,000 military households complained about their tap water smelling like fuel or of ailments like stomach cramps and vomiting. □

New study outlines high costs of extreme heat in Phoenix



People stand in the direct sunlight adjacent to an over-crowded bus stop, Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

By **ANITA SNOW**

PHOENIX (AP) — Extreme heat is expensive.

That's the conclusion of a study presented Monday by The Nature Conservan-

cy, which commissioned a look at the costs of rising temperatures in Phoenix.

Working with infrastructure consulting firm AECOM, the nonprofit environmental or-

ganization known for its nature preserves and efforts to protect biodiversity this time turned its attention to the country's hottest large metropolitan area.

"As Phoenix continues to urbanize and its population expands, the benefits of adapting to extreme heat may only increase, as will the consequences of inaction," the report said. "To implement the ambitious solution scenarios and realize the associated benefits, both the public and private sector will need to play an active role."

David Hondula, a climate scientist formerly with Arizona State University who now heads Phoenix's new heat response and mitigation office, said the re-

port will be useful for cities like his in getting funding for measures to help cool down neighborhoods. He served on the study's advisory committee.

Phoenix was always scorching, but climate change has made it even hotter, with temperatures in early September still climbing to 111 degrees (43.8 Celsius). Temperatures reached as high as 118 degrees (48 Celsius) over the summer. The city is the nation's fifth largest, with 1.6 million people.

The people most vulnerable to the heat are often in poor and racially diverse communities where many households lack the means to cope with heat waves that are becoming more

frequent, widespread and severe. Phoenix's Maricopa County recorded 323 heat related deaths in 2020.

The Nature Conservancy's study looked at the costs that can be caused by steadily rising temperatures to human health, labor productivity, electricity and roadways.

Extreme heat already costs people in metro Phoenix \$7.3 million every year in emergency room visits and hospitalizations due to heat-related illnesses, according to the study. Maintaining roadways in the metro area costs transportation agencies over \$100 million annually as streets and highways buckle, rut and crack from high temperatures. □

Whistleblower: As Afghanistan fell, UK abandoned supporters

By **DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS**

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Foreign Office abandoned many of the nation's allies in Afghanistan and left them to the mercy of the Taliban during the fall of the capital, Kabul, because of a dysfunctional and arbitrary evacuation effort, a whistleblower alleged Tuesday.

In devastating evidence to a parliamentary committee, Raphael Marshall said thousands of pleas for help via email were unread between Aug. 21 and Aug. 25. The former Foreign Office employee estimated that only 5% of Afghan nationals who applied to flee under one U.K. program received help. He said that at one point, he was the only person monitoring the inbox. "There were usually over 5,000 unread emails in the inbox at any given moment, including many unread emails dating from early in August," he wrote to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, which is investigating Britain's chaotic departure from Afghanistan. "These emails were desperate and urgent. I was struck by many titles including phrases such as 'please save my children'." Marshall said some of those left behind had been killed by the Taliban.

One of Marshall's most explosive allegations is a claim that British officials spent time and energy arranging the evacuation of almost 200 dogs and cats from a Kabul animal shelter run by Nowzad, a charity founded by former Royal



Hundreds of people gather outside the international airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

Marine Pen Farthing.

Marshall claimed Foreign Office staff had "received an instruction from the Prime Minister to use considerable capacity to transport Nowzad's animals." He claimed British soldiers were put at risk to get the animals out of Kabul.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain, said the allegation was "entirely untrue" and neither Johnson nor his wife Carrie, an animal-welfare advocate, had been involved in helping the animals leave.

He said Farthing and his animals left Afghanistan on a privately chartered plane which was given clearance by British officials.

"We are confident that at no point clearance for that charter plane interrupted our capability to evacuate people," Blain said.

As the Taliban took power in August, the United States, the U.K. and other countries rushed to evacuate Afghans who had worked with Western forces and others at risk of violent reprisals.

Britain managed to airlift 15,000 people out of the country in two weeks, and the government says it has since helped more than 3,000 others leave Afghanistan.

But an Afghan Resettle-

ment Scheme announced by the government in August with the goal of bringing another 20,000 people to Britain has yet to get underway.

Former Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who was moved from the Foreign Office to become Justice Secretary after the crisis,

defended his actions.

"Some of the criticism seems rather dislocated from the facts on the ground, the operational pressures that with the takeover of the Taliban, unexpected around the world," he told the BBC. "I do think that not enough recognition has been given to quite how difficult it

was."

Tom Tugendhat, a Conservative lawmaker who heads the foreign affairs committee, said Marshall's testimony "raises serious questions about the leadership of the Foreign Office." The committee is due to quiz senior Foreign Office civil servants later Tuesday. The Taliban stormed across Afghanistan in late summer, capturing all major cities in a matter of days, as Afghan security forces trained and equipped by the U.S. and its allies melted away. The Taliban took over Kabul on Aug. 15.

Tens of thousands of Afghans attempted to leave by air or land, fearing the country could descend into chaos or that the Taliban would reimpose the harsh interpretation of Islamic law that they relied on when they ran Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. At the time, women had to wear the all-encompassing burqa and be accompanied by a male relative whenever they went outside. The Taliban banned music, cut off the hands of thieves and stoned adulterers. □

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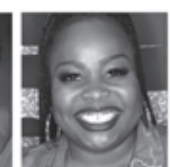
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China says U.S. diplomatic boycott violates Olympic spirit

BEIJING (AP) — China accused the United States of violating the Olympic spirit on Tuesday after the Biden administration announced a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Games over human rights concerns. Rights groups have pushed for a full-blown boycott of the Games, accusing China of rights abuses against ethnic minorities. The U.S. decision falls short of those calls but comes at an exceptionally turbulent time for relations between the powerhouse nations and was met with a barrage of criticism from China. The U.S. is attempting to interfere with the Beijing Games “out of ideological prejudice and based on lies and rumors,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters. The boycott “seriously violates the principle of political neutrality of sports established by the Olympic Charter and runs counter to the Olympic motto ‘more united,’” Zhao said. As he did the previous day, Zhao vowed that China would respond with “resolute countermeasures” but offered no details. “The U.S. will pay a price for its practices. You may stay



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian invites questions during a press conference in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021.

Associated Press

tuned for follow-ups,” Zhao said. On Monday, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters that the Biden administration will fully support U.S. athletes competing at the Games but won’t dispatch diplomats or officials to attend. Psaki said the U.S. has a “fundamental commitment to promoting human rights” and that it “will not be contributing to the fanfare of the Games.”

The diplomatic boycott comes as the U.S. attempts to thread the needle between stabilizing difficult relations with Beijing and maintaining a tough stance on trade and political conflicts. The U.S. has accused China of human rights abuses against Muslim Uyghurs in northwest Xinjiang province, suppressing democratic movements in Hong Kong, committing military aggression against

the self-ruled island of Taiwan and more. Other major countries have yet to say if they will follow the American lead. Beijing has denounced U.S. criticisms and punitive sanctions as interference in its internal affairs and slapped visa bans on American politicians it regards as anti-China. Zhao warned the U.S. to “stop politicizing sports” and cease what he said

were actions undermining the Beijing Winter Olympics, “otherwise it will undermine the dialogue and cooperation between the two countries in a series of important areas and international issues.” The Chinese Embassy in Washington dismissed the move as posturing in a tweet. “In fact, no one would care about whether these people come or not, and it has no impact whatsoever on the #Beijing2022 to be successfully held,” the embassy said. China’s mission to the United Nations called the boycott a “self-directed political farce.” Even the ruling Communist Party’s notoriously opaque Central Commission for Discipline Inspection issued a response in the form of a lengthy screed on its website entitled “The Spirit of the Olympic Charter Cannot be Tarnished.” “Some Western anti-China politicians” have shown a “defensive Cold War mentality aimed at politicizing sport,” the article said, calling that a “clear violation of the Olympic spirit and a challenge to all people who love the Olympic movement.” □

Rohingya sue Facebook for \$150B, alleging role in violence



The Facebook logo on screens at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York’s Times Square, March 29, 2018.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Rohingya refugees sued Facebook parent Meta Platforms for more than \$150 billion over what they say was the company’s failure to stop hateful posts that incited violence against the Mus-

lim ethnic group by Myanmar’s military rulers and their supporters. Lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit Monday in California saying Facebook’s arrival in Myanmar helped spread hate speech, mis-

information and incitement to violence that “amounted to a substantial cause, and eventual perpetuation of, the Rohingya genocide.” Lawyers in the United Kingdom have issued notice of their intention to file a similar legal action. Facebook, which was recently renamed Meta, did not immediately reply to a request for comment. It’s the latest in a series of accusations that the social media giant fueled misinformation and political violence, outlined in redacted internal documents obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including The Associated Press. The combined legal claims from Rohingya refugees are being filed on behalf of anyone worldwide who sur-

vived the violence or had a relative who died from it. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group forced to flee persecution and violence in Myanmar starting in 2017, with an estimated 1 million living in refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh. Some 10,000 have ended up in the United States. In 2018, United Nations human rights experts investigating attacks against the Rohingya said Facebook had played a role in spreading hate speech. More than 10,000 Rohingya have been killed and more than 150,000 were subject to physical violence, according to the law firms organizing the cases. The lawsuits say Facebook’s algorithms amplified hate speech against the Rohingya people and

that it didn’t spend enough money to hire moderators and fact checkers who spoke the local languages or understood the political situation. They also say Facebook failed to shut accounts and pages or take down posts inciting violence or using hate speech directed at the ethnic group. Facebook arrived in Myanmar in 2011, arranging for millions of residents to access the internet for the first time, according to the lawsuit filed in California Superior Court for San Mateo County. But the lawsuit says the company did little to warn people about the dangers of online misinformation and fake accounts — tactics employed by the military in its campaign against the Rohingya. □



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European activists fight for right to repair electronics

By JAMES BROOKS

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — At a table scattered with tools and wires, volunteer repairers sit across from the owners of an assortment of inoperable electronics. The volunteers at a free “repair cafe” in Copenhagen disassemble and diagnose gadgets while the customers watch, each doing their part for the environment — one broken blender, radio or laptop at a time.

In Denmark, workshops where non-professionals with a bug for fixing things can share equipment and technical know-how with each other as well as the less handy are held on a regular basis. The non-profit Repair Café Denmark stages up to 15 weekly events in public libraries and community centers across the Scandinavian country.

“I didn’t want to replace it with a new one because it was such a tiny little problem,” said Ann Lisbeth Dam, who recently brought a digital radio her daughter gave her four years ago into a Copenhagen community center where restorers also worked on a non-functioning music speaker and a digital photo frame. In exchange, people were asked to chip in money to cover the cost of coffee.

The Danish events represent activism in its most direct, local form, but they also are part of an international movement calling for the “right to repair.” The movement, which has branches elsewhere in Europe and in the United States, is a response to the expense and environmental cost of personal electronics and appliances becoming obsolete within a few years because manufacturers make them expensive or difficult to fix. “We have to take care of the planet. We can’t af-



A volunteer repairs a circuit board at a fortnightly repair cafe event in Malmo, southern Sweden, Sunday Nov. 14, 2021

Associated Press

ford to live like we used to live, so we have to make a movement about not throwing things out when they’re still working,” Repair Café Denmark chairman Stig Bomholt said.

Chloe Mikolajczak, a campaigner for Right to Repair Europe, an advocacy network of 80 organizations across 17 European countries, says consumers face a number of built-in obstacles when they are deciding whether to fix or to junk a device.

“There’s all these barriers at the design stage,” she said. “You know, whether it’s glue in the product that makes it very difficult to take out a part and replace it, whether it’s the use of proprietary tools, meaning you need to have specific tools that are linked to the manufacturer to open a product, or whether it’s the fact that spare parts or repair information are very difficult to access.”

According to the United Nations, Europe produced

more electronic waste per capita — 16.2 kilograms (35 pounds) per person compared to Africa’s 2.5 kilograms per person — than any other continent last year. More than half of the of the e-waste produced in the 27-nation European Union consists of large household appliances. Items that aren’t recycled typically end up in landfills or are shipped to developing countries.

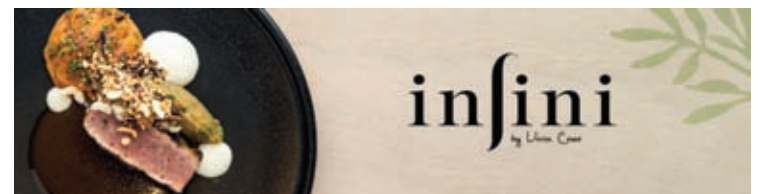
Earlier this year, the EU introduced new rules requiring manufacturers to ensure spare parts are available for refrigerators, washers, hairdryers and TVs for up to 10 years. New appliances also will have to come with repair manuals and be made in such a way that they can be dismantled using conventional tools.

Jessika Luth Richter, an environmental researcher at Lund University and a board member for a group that runs a fortnightly repair café in the Swedish city of Malmo, said the rules don’t

go far enough because in some cases only professional repair companies will be allowed to obtain parts to make sure they are installed correctly.

“A lot of the tools and manuals are only made available to professionals, and we’re not professionals. That means that we don’t get access to some of this,” Luth Richter said.

Activists want the EU to implement a so-called “reparability index” to give consumers clearer information on how easy products are to fix. France introduced a law at the beginning of the year that requires sellers to list fix-it scores based on a set of criteria that includes the availability of spare parts and ease of disassembly. □



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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and

where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean

Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received two beautiful pictures from Lynda Brubaker, from Lancaster, PA USA. She wrote:

"Aruba to me is... a yearly calming opportunity to refresh my dreams, goals, and friendships. Immersing myself into the islands sun, sea and palapas on Eagle Beach".





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Chanukah parade literally lit up the Island



ORANJESTAD — A stunning sight of 30 menorah topped cars paraded the island on Sunday just after sunset brining the message of Chanukah to the streets.

It was a first in Aruba and the sight was met by cheering onlookers. Starting at the California Lighthouse the joyful participants of the parade drove down the coast accompanied by police escorts and blasting Chanukah music to share the message of the lights. The parade ended at the Hyatt parking lot where the giant 9 foot menorah was lit with live music and participants were treated to an energy dance light show followed by latkes and donuts.

"It was really incredible to see the community come together and the excitement in the air as the parade of cars got ready to move." Said Rabbi Ahron Blasberg, director of Chabad Aruba. "We are always trying to find new ways to bring the universal message of Chanukah to the wider community in Aruba. The message of the Chanukah lights is especially pertinent these days when sometimes the world seems so dark. The light of the eight branched menorah symbolizes peace and unity, the power of goodness over oppression and acts of loving kindness winning over negativity. Let's take the universal message of Chanukah this year loud and clear and show the world that we in Aruba are ready to bring light to the world by being a little kinder and a little better. Just a little light pushes away myriads of darkness- so who knows what domino effect we can have?"

The Chanukah menorah parade was organized by Chabad Aruba as part of a worldwide initiative to bring the message of Chanukah to everyone. We give thanks to the Noord Police Department for their police escort and to the Hyatt Regency Aruba for hosting the menorah lighting.

For more information about the activities of Chabad Aruba please visit www.JewishAruba.com.

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The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood | Subway

The Kitchen Table enters seventh year of gastronomy with raving reviews: “The devil is in the details; we are in praise”

EAGLE BEACH — While in Aruba do yourself a favor and experience a night at The Kitchen Table. This is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting- at your- best- friend's or family's kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. The extra mile the owners and staff go has everything to do with running this lovely restaurant in a sincere, authentic way. In Spanish they say: 'Mi casa es tu casa' meaning my house is your house and that describes exactly what you will feel during a night at The Kitchen Table.

The 8-course ecstatic food trip starts with a warm welcome and sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.00PM. The chef's table concept is happening on the second floor of the owners' restaurant Asi Es Mi Peru, another highly recommended establishment. But we are here now to guide you through the concept of The Kitchen Table, so let's go.

Taking you upstairs is literally taking you into an ambiance of warmth, coziness, classic elegance, and intimacy. You are treated like queen and king while sitting in noble chairs at a huge table. Owners Roxanna Salinas and Jan van Nes are warm and welcoming hosts and Chef David Lizano and Sous-Chef Xalsky Schwengle enthusiastically share their deep knowledge of the beautiful dishes that will be presented to you. Get ready to dive into the tastebuds tickling journey to the Caribbean, Peruvian and international

cuisine. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

Table full foodies

The restaurant just got its new menu out, so this is the time to reserve your spot at the table. A Caribbean Peruvian Snack Trio is the enchanting first appetizer existing of a Chicken Empanada, Crab & Shrimp Egg-roll and a Cucumber & Tuna Nikkei. This is paired with a delicate Ruffino Oviato (Italy), just perfect. Taking us to the next round we are presented a Mahi Mahi Tartare, delicious and combined with the Spanish Santiago Ruiz Albarino, we are in heaven. What follows is a personal favorite, the Beef Tataki with Quinoa accompanied by La Fage, Miraflores Rose wine from France. This is an amazing dish. In between the courses the owner and chef explain about the ingredients, preparation, and origins of the dishes in turns, it is truly an interesting and exciting presentation. The Peruvian Red Snapper Casserole is a surprising, wonderful tasting and in complete balance with the USA Cline Viognier from Sonoma Coast. My American-Ecuadorian neighbor was thrilled with this dish and who would be a better judge than she, after all she is from the region. The guests are clearly having a good time and we are in awe so far. The Kitchen Table builds this evening in an upward trend, and we proceed with Scallops and Shrimps within a Risotto of green Peas Puree with a foam of Coconut Milk Sauce. A mouth-melting experience and added to the culinary joy is a USA wine from Yolo County, Phantom Chardonnay. From the Caribbean, Peru we travel to Argentina presented to us with a Veal in her Jus and paired with a beautiful Lunta Malbec. There is no great dinner without a sweet goodbye and The Kitchen Table makes sure that you will not forget them by signing off with a fantastic dessert: Mango popsicle and a Three-layered Cheesecake together with a Portuguese Osborne Port. We asked a couple from New York how they liked the experience: "The devil is in the details; every tiny part here is balanced, and savors are matched in an unmatched way. We are in praise."



The secret formula

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. You can tell making the customers happy is their main priority. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website www.thekitchentableinaruba.com or call them at +297-280 7117. □





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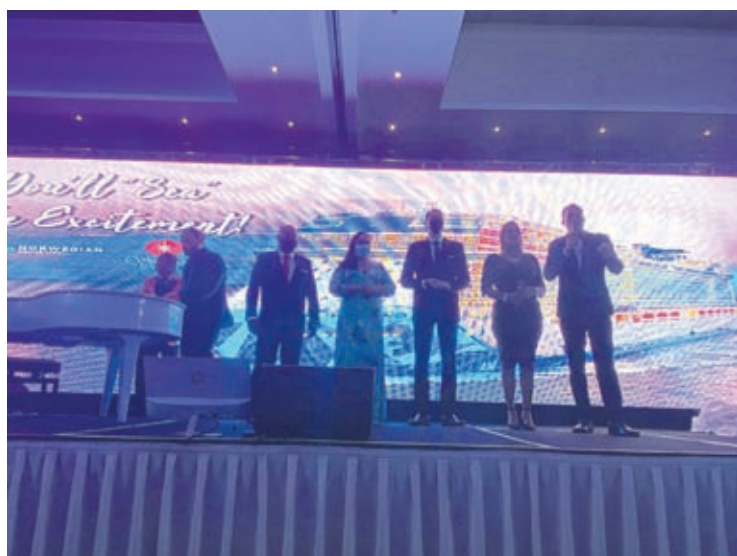




NOORD — It sure was a night to remember. Stellaris Casino at the Aruba Marriott Resort invited a select group of their most valuable players for a special night of celebration. Together with their spouses and partners they enjoyed a nice dinner accompanied over a stellar line up of local and international musical stars, Rocco Franken, Tony Sherman, Edjean Semeleer, and Ataniro.

To make the night more special there was a live coverage by Magia di Pasco on TeleAruba, and Magic 96.5FM. For the entire night the guest were under the suspense and didn't know they were about to be surprised by an incredible announcement.

General Manager, Ben Figaroa together with Yazira



Stellaris Casino surprised their loyal players with an incredible announcement



Feliciana and also joined by Brad Broderick and Darren Beauchamp of Norwegian cruise line, came on stage to break the happy news to more than totally surprised event goers.

The announcement:

"All loyal Stellaris Casino players are ALL eligible to a fully paid 7-day cruise for two to any destination of their choice with Norwegian cruise line".

The guest went crazy after hearing the big announcement. It was beyond their imagination. Some even got tears of happiness. This is some-



thing never before done at any casino in Aruba. Stellaris casino partnered up with Norwegian cruise line for an ongoing multi-year program, and the cruise for two became available to all loyal Stellaris players, not just the ones selected for the exclusive Marriott ballroom event. The fully paid, 7-day cruise, will be available to all loyal players, on their own schedule, a number of times a year, over the next few years.

This is the way of Stellaris Casino saying Thank You to all loyal players who have been supporting them throughout the time of crisis. □

Stellaris Casino
Aruba Marriott Resort
Open daily from 9.00 Am to 1.00 AM

New prices for petroleum products December 8, 2021



ORANJESTAD – The Minister Economic Affairs, Communications and Sustainable Development announces the adjusted prices for petroleum products starting December 8, 2021:

Gasoline unleaded-premium: 239,0 cent p/ltr. (- 7,4 cent)
Gasoil LS: 202,3 cent p/ltr. (- 6,7 cent)
Kerosene: 183,8 cent p/ltr. (- 4,7 cent)

BBO(turnover tax)/BAZV(Health tax)/BAVP is included in the prices.□



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Millennial Money: How to holiday shop at the last minute

By **COURTNEY JESPERSEN** of **NerdWallet**

Supply chain snags. Sold-out merchandise. Empty shelves. Hefty shipping fees. Inflation. There are plenty of complications working against you this holiday shopping season.

And despite warnings to shop early because of pandemic-related delays, some of us didn't prioritize holiday shopping in October and November.

But all hope isn't lost. Here's what to do if you still have gifts left to purchase this month.

WATCH FOR RESTOCKS

Keep checking back with retailers — both online and in stores — over the next few weeks, and you could be pleasantly surprised.

"Typically retailers get multiple deliveries in throughout a holiday season, so even if something is sold out earlier in the season, there's always a chance that it could come back in stock in December," says Katherine Cullen, senior director of industry and consumer insights for the National Re-



A consumer shops at a retail store in Mount Prospect, Ill., Dec. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

tail Federation.

And remember all of those deliveries that were supposed to arrive weeks ago? Well, they may finally make their way onto U.S. soil — and onto store shelves in the weeks ahead.

"With some of these delays that are impacting retailers at ports, we need

to consider those holiday shipments they've scheduled for November. Maybe they'll be coming in December," Cullen says.

Besides physically visiting stores or manually checking websites for product availability, you can also let technology do the work for you. On many retail sites,

you can enter your email address and sign up to be notified when a particular item comes back in stock.

CHECK DELIVERY DEADLINES

Once you find something you want to buy, make sure you'll get it in time for holiday gatherings. If you're unsure if something will ar-

rive when you need it, Cullen recommends checking a retailer's website and social media accounts, or calling your local store.

Cullen says retailers typically advertise order-by deadlines on their websites. These are the last days to order if you want your online purchases to come by Christmas. If you pass the deadline, you may have to pay extra for expedited shipping. Or, you could miss Christmas delivery altogether. The United States Postal Service has already announced its holiday shipping deadlines. Dec. 15 is the cutoff for retail ground shipping in the contiguous U.S. for delivery before Christmas. You can expect major retailers to advertise a similar date.

Sometimes, specific products are backordered or have shipping estimates that differ from the overall website. Always pay attention to notes about the product as well as the estimated delivery date when you're navigating the online checkout process. □

American CEO Parker becomes latest airline chief to exit

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines CEO Doug Parker will retire in March and be replaced by its current president, Robert Isom, as the airline seeks to rebuild after massive losses caused by the pandemic.

Parker, 60, has led Texas-based American since late 2013, when he engineered a merger with smaller US Airways. He will remain as chairman, American said Tuesday.

Isom, 58, has been the heir apparent since becoming American's president in 2016 after Scott Kirby was forced out and joined United Airlines, where he now serves as the CEO. Isom has overseen American's operations, including sales and pricing, and its alliances with other airlines.

American struggled through most of the summer with high numbers of canceled and delayed flights. The disruptions were due in

large part to staffing issues after American persuaded thousands of employees to leave last year, only to be caught short when air travel recovered faster than expected from the depths of the pandemic.

American posted a profit of \$169 million in the third quarter, thanks to nearly \$1 billion in federal pandemic relief that covered most of the airline's payroll costs. Yet its debt has ballooned to more than \$36 billion as it borrowed to get through the worst of the pandemic. Airline officials say they will be able to pay down debt once business and international travel recover.

American faces other challenges, including a Justice Department lawsuit that seeks to cancel an agreement to work with JetBlue Airways in setting schedules and service in the Northeast. Relations with unions, particularly that of the pi-

lots, have worsened under the pressure of the airline's operational shortcomings.

"Over the past several years, our airline and our industry have gone through a period of transformative change, and with change comes opportunity," Isom said in a prepared statement.

Parker, who will step down as CEO on March 31, said American is "well-positioned to take full advantage of our industry's recovery" from the collapse in travel caused by the pandemic, "and now is the right time for a handoff we have planned and prepared for."

Parker is the latest CEO of a major U.S. airline to announce his retirement this year. In June, Southwest Airlines Gary Kelly said he would step down, with longtime executive Robert Jordan taking over. Alaska Airlines CEO Brad Tilden



Doug Parker, CEO of American Airlines, speaks with reporters after a meeting with White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows at the White House, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

was succeeded by Ben Minicucci in April.

Parker has spent two decades as an airline CEO since becoming the head of America West Airlines just days before the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. The Phoenix carrier survived a downturn in travel with help from a federal loan.

In 2005, Parker engineered

a merger with larger but bankrupt US Airways, and he repeated the same strategy in December 2013 with American, which was just emerging from bankruptcy protection. Parker enlisted the support of American's labor unions to dump the bigger airline's management after the merger. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Sacred

1 Parcel river of
(out) India

5 Rascals 45 Invites

11 Nerve

impulse

relayer

12 Mauna

Loa

setting

13 Tater

14 Held forth

15 Greedy

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16 Young

kangaroo

17 Tackle

box items

19 Hold up

22 Cruller's

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24 Milking

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26 Musical

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27 Greek

liqueur

28 Espresso

order

30 Sire

31 Overhead

trains

32 Suppress

34 Wrath

35 Manx, e.g.

38 Traveler's

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41 Japanese

sport

42 Take wing

43 School

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DOWN

1 Use a

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2 Trade

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3 Difficult

puzzles

4 Conclude

5 Trembled

6 Loving

touch

7 Not at

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8 Welcome

sight

9 Cobbler's

cousin

10 Comic

Caesar

25 Low digits

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16 Write

hastily

18 Give

the boot

19 Unfinished

36 In a frenzy

37 A lot

38 Spree

39 Longoria

of TV

40 Pewter

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29 Compare

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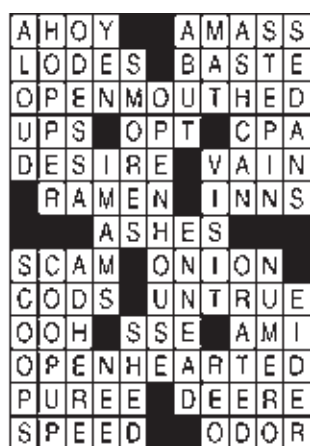
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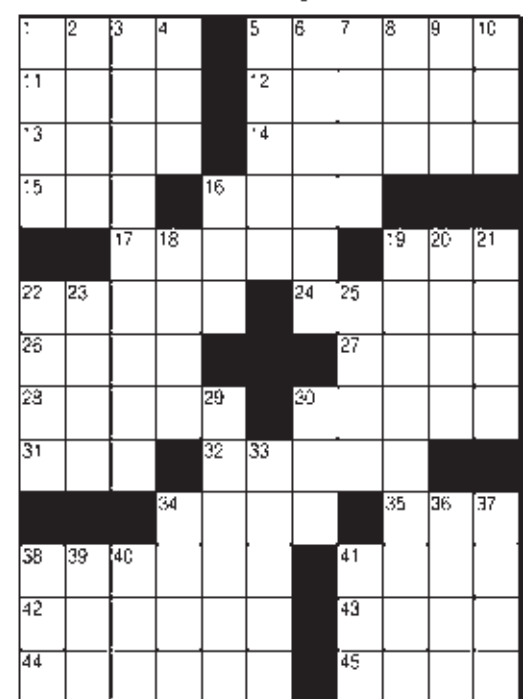
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component



Yesterday's answer



12-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-8

CRYPTOQUOTE

LVEZ ZRCAGE OKQMIVMB

QAICJKQORVXJ PQZBPQGGZ

IRVZ VZ Q ZLVGG IRQI'Z CSIBX

CHBKGCCCLBE VX GVIIGB

GBQJAB. — IAJ NMJKQF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU ARE THE SUM TOTAL OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER SEEN, HEARD, EATEN, SMELLED, BEEN TOLD, FORGOT — IT'S ALL THERE. — MAYA ANGELOU

Study can't confirm lab results for many cancer experiments



A technician holds a laboratory mouse at the Jackson Laboratory, Jan. 24, 2006, in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Associated Press

By CARLA K. JOHNSON

Eight years ago, a team of researchers launched a project to carefully repeat early but influential lab experiments in cancer research.

They recreated 50 experiments, the type of preliminary research with mice and test tubes that sets the stage for new cancer drugs. The results reported Tuesday: About half the scientific claims didn't hold up.

"The truth is we fool ourselves. Most of what we claim is novel or significant is no such thing," said Dr. Vinay Prasad, a cancer doctor and researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, who was not involved in the project.

It's a pillar of science that the strongest findings come from experiments that can be repeated with similar results.

In reality, there's little incentive for researchers to share methods and data so others can verify the work, said Marcia McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences. Researchers lose prestige if their results don't hold up to scrutiny, she said.

And there are built-in rewards for publishing discoveries.

But for cancer patients, it can raise false hopes to read headlines of a mouse study that seems to promise a cure "just around the corner," Prasad said. "Progress in cancer is always slower than we hope."

The new study reflects on shortcomings early in the

scientific process, not with established treatments. By the time cancer drugs reach the market, they've been tested rigorously in large numbers of people to make sure they are safe and they work.

For the project, the researchers tried to repeat experiments from cancer biology papers published from 2010 to 2012 in major journals such as Cell, Science and Nature.

Overall, 54% of the original findings failed to measure up to statistical criteria set

ahead of time by the Reproducibility Project, according to the team's study published online Tuesday by eLife. The nonprofit eLife receives funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports The Associated Press Health and Science Department.

Among the studies that did not hold up was one that found a certain gut bacteria was tied to colon cancer in humans. Another was for a type of drug that shrunk breast tumors in mice. A third was a mouse study of a potential prostate cancer drug.

A co-author of the prostate cancer study said the research done at Sanford Burnham Prebys research institute has held up to other scrutiny.

"There's plenty of reproduction in the (scientific) literature of our results," said Erkki Ruoslahti, who started a company now running human trials on the same compound for metastatic pancreatic cancer. □

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'Cheugy,' 'omicron' among 2021's most mispronounced words

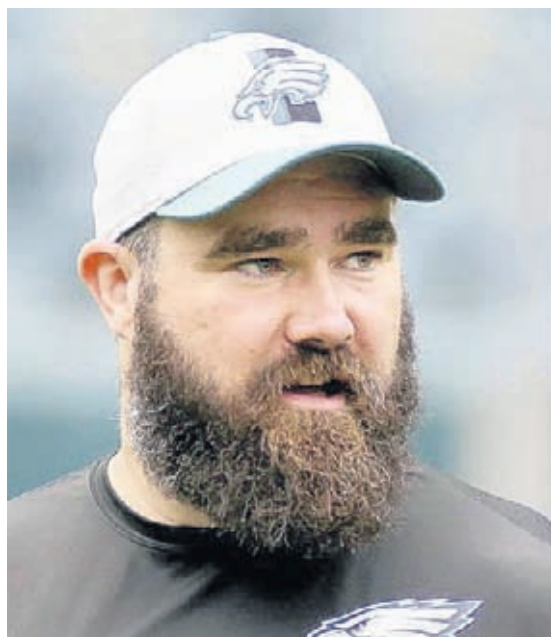
By **WILLIAM J. KOLE**

"Cheugy" is apparently a lot to chew on. Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Billie Eilish and Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce have something in common — broadcasters butcher their names.

And virtually everyone is having trouble with "omicron."

All four made it onto this year's list of most mispronounced words as compiled by the U.S. Captioning Company, which captions and subtitles real-time events on TV and in courtrooms. The list released Tuesday identifies the words that proved most challenging for newsreaders and people on television to pronounce this year. The caption company said it surveyed its members to generate the list, which is now in its sixth year and was commissioned by Babel, a language-learning platform with headquarters in Berlin and New York.

"Newscasters in the U.S. have struggled with 2021's new words and names while reporting on key sporting events, viral internet trends and emerging celebrities," said Esteban Touma, a standup comedian and teacher for Babel Live. "As a language teacher, it's always interesting to see that some of



This combination of 2021 photos shows Philadelphia Eagles' Jason Kelce, left, and Billie Eilish in London.

Associated Press

these terms are usually new colloquialisms, or are rooted or borrowed from another language," he said. "As a non-native speaker, I must confess it's fun to see English speakers stumbling a bit for a change."

Here's how Touma breaks down the proper pronunciations for the most commonly misspoken words:

— **Cheugy (CHOO-gee)**: A trendy term popularized by Gen Z and used to mock an outdated and unfashionable aesthetic typically associated with millennials, such as "Live, Laugh, Love" signs.

— **Chipotle (chih-POHT-lay)**: The American fast food chain became the

center of a viral trend this year challenging Baby Boomers to pronounce the name.

— **Dalgona (tal-goh-NAH)**: A Korean treat made with melted sugar and baking soda, popularized in Netflix's "Squid Game." (Touma notes that some speakers seem to produce a "K" instead of the "G" in the middle syllable.)

— **Dogecoin (DOHJ-coin)**: A divisive cryptocurrency that began somewhat ironically before being popularized by Elon Musk, causing its value to dramatically increase.

— **Eilish (EYE-lish)**: The singer Billie Eilish, whose album "Happier Than Ever" was

released this year to critical acclaim and nominated for the Grammy Awards' Album of the Year.

— **Ethereum (ih-THEE-ree-um)**: Another cryptocurrency that skyrocketed in value this year amid the decentralized-currency boom.

— **Ever Given (EV-er GIV-en)**: The name of the ship that blocked the Suez Canal in March, costing billions of dollars in lost trade. Many newscasters mistook the name of the ship as "Evergreen," the name of the company that owns the vessel, which was printed on its hull.

— **Glasgow (GLAHZ-go)**: The host city of November's

United Nations Climate Conference was mispronounced by both President Joe Biden and former president Barack Obama.

— **Kelce (KELs)**: The Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce revealed on radio this year that his teammates and the media had been mispronouncing his name for years.

— **Omicron (AH-muh-kraan / OH-mee-kraan)**: A new variant of COVID-19 first identified in November, named in keeping with the World Health Organization's system of identifying variants with Greek letters. (Touma notes it's pronounced differently in the U.S. and the U.K.)

— **Shein (SHEE-in)**: The Chinese fast fashion company at the center of the "Shein haul" trend, in which participants record themselves trying on numerous different outfits from the company.

— **Stefanos Tsitsipas (STEH-fuh-nohs TSEE-tsee-pas)**: Currently ranked as the world's No. 4 tennis player, the Greek athlete rose to international prominence when he lost to Novak Djokovic in the final of the French Open in June.

— **Yassify (YEAH-sih-fai)**: A popular trend in which multiple beauty filters are applied to well-known pictures or portraits for comic effect. □

Review: Boy band drama meets romance in 'If This Gets Out'



This cover image released by Wednesday Books shows "If This Gets Out," a novel by Sophie Gonzales and Cale Dietrich. Wednesday Books via Associated Press

By **DONNA EDWARDS**

Saturday is the hot, new American boy band getting ready to do their first overseas tour. Its four members might be more excited if they were allowed any personal freedom — their identities are being chipped away to uphold the carefully curated personalities assigned to them. With each album release and every leg of tour, more restrictions are piled onto Saturday's members until they're sequestered to their hotel rooms any time they're not actively working. Are 18-year-olds Ruben, Zach,

Jon and Angel ready to take matters into their own hands?

"If This Gets Out" is a tangle of richly fleshed-out lives navigating an often insidious industry. Co-authors Sophie Gonzales and Cale Dietrich create nuanced, lovable characters who are relatable, despite being in situations most people can only dream of.

The novel alternates perspectives between Zach and Ruben as they uncover a deep attraction for each other. Ruben knows he's gay and has been waiting years for Saturday's management

company to allow him to come out publicly. Zach, still coming to terms with a sexuality he'd previously tamped down, is far less experienced than Ruben in navigating the world as a queer person. Their fledgling feelings are immediately put to the test under the constant scrutiny of fame.

Meanwhile, the band is dealing with everyday teen problems: fighting with parents, processing breakups, adapting to adulthood. Tack on long days filled with media appearances, choreography practice and public per-

formances that leave little time for basic necessities like food and sleep. Saturday has brought its members success, but they're beginning to question the price they're all paying.

Gonzales and Dietrich part the curtains and imagine what happens backstage, showcasing the drama that takes place when flesh-and-blood people become puppets for entertainment. "If This Gets Out" will suck you in from Page 1 with its well-executed prose, and its fascinating world of boy band drama will stick with you beyond the finale. □

Analysis: Steph still must-see TV, anytime cameras are near

By TIM REYNOLDS

The shot has been replayed millions of times already on video and social platforms. And considering it was from the stands before a game, it obviously didn't even count.

Such is the lure of Stephen Curry.

When he does something, everyone tunes in.

For those who haven't seen what he did Saturday night, here it is. It's a tradition he continued from the Golden State Warriors' former home, Oracle Arena, and brought to the Chase Center. At Oracle, it was a shot from the tunnel at the end of his pregame shooting session. At Chase, it's been from a variety of places, most recently a corner of the stands. A security guard fires him a ball and Curry lets fly.

Swish.

"He's got range," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

Curry's got it all. Range, game, rings, charm, skills, a sparkling resume, a great organization, great arena, great fan base and, once again, a great team. He's funny. He's one of the best interviews in the NBA. He's made birdies at Augusta National. He went to the Ryder Cup as a fan and actually thought nobody would notice.

He'll be 34 by the time the season ends, is averaging just under 28 points and is playing like he has a very real chance of winning the NBA's MVP award this season. The Golden State Warriors, along with Phoenix, are an NBA-best 20-4 after



Injured Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, left, and guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrate during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns in San Francisco, Friday, Dec. 3, 2021.

Associated Press

beating the Orlando Magic on Monday night. They've been playing as well as any team in the league. They're a legitimate title contender. And in a few days, Curry will overtake Ray Allen as the career leader in 3-pointers made.

Curry has 2,958 after making seven more in Monday's win over the Magic. Allen retired with 2,973. Fans in Philadelphia on Saturday or Indiana on Monday are probably going to see a treat — some history, when Curry becomes the 3-point king.

There are some arguments that will never be settled. Wilt Chamberlain or Bill Russell, LeBron James or Michael Jordan, Phil Jackson or Pat Riley, Celtics dynasty or Bulls dynasty.

The best shooter argument, though, there really is no

debate.

It's Curry. Case closed. The dunk used to be the coolest thing in basketball. It's the 3 now and Curry is why. "There's never been anyone like him," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

If the NBA had a likeability metric, Curry would be the leader there, too. He's 6-foot-3 and 198 pounds, not 6-foot-10 and 275. And although he's put on some noticeable muscle in recent years, he still kind of has the everyman vibe to him. He plays the way that most people on playgrounds think they play: great ballhandling, great shooting, except he's actually a great ballhandler and great shooter and the guy on the playground makes the occasional deep 3 and gets to pretend.

"I think he was still, for some

reason, under the radar in the beginning," Popovich said. "He's kind of slight stature. At the time, he wasn't that strong. He always looked like he was 17 or 18 years old. You didn't look at him and say 'Hey, he's going to do this.' But as the years went by and you realized he's one of the greatest shooters you've ever seen, it became apparent that everything record-wise would be available to him." Popovich is right. Just about every 3-point record in existence is owned by Curry, or soon will be.

Nobody has made more 3-pointers for one team, or in one season, or in one postseason. He made 30 3's against Minnesota in the 2018-19 season, the most anyone has made against one opponent in a season. He's made 163 all-


time against the Clippers, another record for most all-time against an opponent. He's already passed Allen for most 3's all-time, when including playoffs. The only record he hasn't gotten is most 3's in a game; his best is 13, the record is 14, set by Klay Thompson.

"He's one of the greatest players in the history of the game," Kerr said. "And he's the greatest 3-point shooter of all time."

This is what should scare NBA teams to their core about this Warriors team. Curry is as good as ever, the team is rolling and Thompson is a few weeks away from finally getting back on the court. A good team is going to get that much better. And Curry will be even better when it happens, because defenses know that they can't leave Thompson alone.

"I just like where we are right now," Curry said. "We've got good vibes around what we're doing. There's good energy. We've bounced back from tough losses really well. We're handling our business right now."

It's an old cliché that regular fans don't start watching the NBA until Christmas, and there is a certain amount of truth to that. That said, there have been compelling stories involving big names already this season. Kevin Durant, coming off another Olympic gold medal, is making scoring look easy in Brooklyn. Phoenix, coming off last season's run to the NBA Finals, just won 18 consecutive games before falling to the Warriors. □



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Heisman finalists: Young, Hutchinson, Pickett, Stroud

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

NEW YORK (AP) — Alabama quarterback Bryce Young, Michigan defensive end Aidan Hutchinson, Pittsburgh quarterback Kenny Pickett and Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud were announced Monday as finalists for the Heisman Trophy.

The Heisman will be presented Saturday in New York, returning to its usual routine and date — second Saturday in December — after it was forced to delay and go virtual last year due to the pandemic.

There are some changes this year. The site of the presentation is moving from a theater in Midtown Manhattan, near Times Square, to a smaller venue on the West Side near Lincoln Center.

The process by which Heisman finalists are determined has also been modified. The Heisman Trust announced that starting with this season, there will be four finalists — no more, no fewer — invited to the award presentation ceremony.

In the past the Heisman has invited at least three and as many as six players to the presentation. The number was determined by distribution of vote, with the cut-off decided by the gap between vote-getters.

After a 2021 season in which a Heisman front-runner took a while to emerge and the race seemed wide-open into November,



Alabama quarterback Bryce Young (9) passes in the pocket against Georgia during the first half of the Southeastern Conference championship NCAA college football game, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Young closed strong to become the favorite.

The sophomore led a 97-yard, game-tying touchdown drive against rival Auburn two weeks ago, helping the Crimson Tide rally to win the Iron Bowl in overtime.

Then Young broke the Southeastern Conference championship game record with 421 yards passing in a victory against Georgia's vaunted defense on Saturday.

For the season, Young has

thrown for 4,322 yards, 43 touchdowns and just four interceptions while guiding the top-ranked Crimson Tide to the College Football Playoff.

As good as Young has been in his first season as Alabama's starting quarterback, following Heisman finalists Mac Jones and Tua Tagovailoa, an argument could be made he is not even the clear best player on his own team.

Will Anderson Jr. appeared to be the Tide's top Heis-

man contender until Young went off against Georgia. The sophomore outside linebacker leads the nation in tackles for loss with 31.5 and sacks with 15.5, but he didn't get an invitation to New York.

Nether did Michigan State running back Kenneth Walker III, who is second in the nation in rushing at 136 yards per game with 19 touchdowns. The Wake Forest transfer jumped to the top of the Heisman watch lists after scoring five touchdowns in the 11th-ranked Spartans' victory against Michigan on Oct. 30.

Young could become Alabama's fourth Heisman winner, second consecutive, but first quarterback. Tide receiver DeVonta Smith won the Heisman last year. Smith broke a streak of

four straight quarterbacks to win the Heisman. Since 2000, 17 quarterbacks have won the trophy. Among the non-quarterback winners are Alabama running backs Mark Ingram (2009) and Derrick Henry (2015).

Hutchinson would be the first defensive player to win the Heisman since Michigan's Charles Woodson in 1997. Woodson was also Michigan's last Heisman winner.

The last Michigan player to be a Heisman finalists also played defense, though not exclusively. Defensive back Jabrill Peppers played some offense and returned kicks when he finished fifth in the voting in 2016.

Hutchinson is one of the nation's best pass rushers with 14 sacks. The senior led No. 2 Michigan to its first playoff appearance as Big Ten champions and helped end an eight-game losing streak to rival Ohio State.

Pickett returned to Pitt for a fifth season in 2021, taking advantage of the NCAA's eligibility give-back for playing through the pandemic in 2020, and had a record-breaking year. Pickett passed for 4,319 yards with 42 touchdowns to eclipse school marks and led the 13th-ranked Panthers to their first Atlantic Coast Conference title.

The last Pitt player to be a Heisman finalist was receiver Larry Fitzgerald in 2003. Stroud completed 71% of his passes for 3,862 yards, 38 touchdowns and five interceptions as the seventh-ranked Buckeyes finished 10-2 in his first season as a starter.

He is the third straight Ohio State starting quarterback to be a Heisman finalist, joining Justin Fields (2019) and Dwayne Haskins (2018). □



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